

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Marine Lance Corporal Jeremiah Kinchen.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jeremiah Kinchen upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death in ground combat of Lance Corporal Jeremiah Kinchen; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Kinchen was a native of French Settlement and growing up there until the age of 13 when his parents relocated to Salcha, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Kinchen graduated from high school in Alaska and began his military career shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Kinchen was assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve's 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division in San Antonio before later being attached to the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 8th Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Kinchen hoped to eventually serve with the Special Forces and was working toward that goal by successfully attending diving and parachuting schools; and

1 WHEREAS, while Lance Corporal Kinchen loved his family and friends and missed
2 them dearly during his tour of duty in the Iraqi Theater of Operations, he also loved his
3 country, felt it was his duty to protect his homeland and was honored to be fighting the
4 enemies of America; and

5 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Kinchen's maternal grandfather was gravely ill and he
6 could have requested a hardship leave to stay behind when his unit was deployed to Iraq, but
7 his mother said his sense of duty prevailed instead, "He could have gotten out for hardship,
8 but he wanted to go, he was very dedicated."; and

9 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Kinchen was 22 years old when he and his unit were
10 on patrol in Al Anbar Province searching for terrorist forces reported to be conducting
11 offensive operations in the area in a determined attempt to create chaos and disarray in Iraq's
12 struggling democracy; and

13 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Kinchen's unit became engaged in ground combat with
14 enemy forces when he and his fellow Marines were struck by an improvised explosive
15 device, mortally wounding Lance Corporal Kinchen and grievously wounding two other
16 Marines participating in the patrol; and

17 WHEREAS, while the loss of Lance Corporal Kinchen and the terrible wounding of
18 his comrades was almost more than his family and friends could endure, his sacrifice for his
19 country served as a reason for others to rally behind the brave service members serving in
20 Iraq and also served as a reminder to all that freedom is not free and sometimes Americans
21 must fight to protect the precious freedoms and liberties that all American citizens now
22 enjoy; and

23 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Kinchen will forever be remembered by his family,
24 friends, and fellow Marines as a truly dedicated leader who felt honored to be fighting the
25 enemies of his homeland.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
27 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
28 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal
29 Jeremiah Kinchen.

30 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be

1 transmitted to the family of Lance Corporal Jeremiah Kinchen.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jeremiah Kinchen.